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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5171  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
USUN NEW YORK 0760  
USCOMSOLANT  
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E.O. 11652 XGDS-1  
TAGS SHUM, AR, MORG, MARR, PARM, TECH, MNUC  
SUBJECT JUNTA AFFIRMS RATIFICATION OF TLATELOLCO AND  
TIMERMANS TRANSFER; NAVY TO PARTICIPATE IN UNITAS

REF: BUENOS AIRES 2018 (NOTAL)

1. TLATELOLCO RATIFICATION-----  
NAVY COMMANDER IN CHIEF MASSERA INFORMED EMBASSY  
TODAY (MARCH 31) THAT JUNTA AGREED LAST NIGHT TO  
GOA RATIFICATION OF TLATELOLCO TREATY. MASSERA  
SAID THAT THE MAJOR PROBLEM NOW WAS TO FIND AN  
APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY TO PUBLICLY ANNOUNCE  
THE GOAS DECISION. HE NOTED THAT ONE POSSIBILITY UNDER STUDY  
WOULD BE TO HAVE THE ARGENTINE RATIFICATION ANNOUNCED

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DURING THE UPCOMING UN DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE.

2. TIMERMAN TRANSFER-----  
ADMIRAL MASSERA STATED THAT THE JUNTA HAD AGREED WITH THE  
NAVY PROPOSAL TO PLACE JACOBO TIMERMAN UNDER HOUSE ARREST.  
HE SAID THE ACTUAL TRANSFER WILL TAKE PLACE IN A WEEK TO  
15 DAYS AS THE ARMY REQUESTED TIME TO INFORM ITS OFFICERS  
OF THE TIMERMAN DECISION. THE ADMIRAL NOTED THAT THE NAVY  
SPEAKS WITH ONE VOICE, BUT THERE ARE VARIOUS SECTORS OF  
OPINION IN THE ARMY WHICH MUST INFORMED.

3. UNITAS-----  
ADMIRAL MASSERA SAID THAT ON HIS WAY TO SAUDI ARABIA HE  
WOULD STOP IN BRAZIL FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH HIS CLOSE  
COLLEAGUE, THE BRAZILIAN NAVAL CHIEF OF STAFF. AT THAT  
TIME, MASSERA SAID HE WOULD INFORM THE BRAZILIANS THAT  
AS RELATIONS WERE IMPROVING BETWEEN THE US AND ARGENTINA,  
THE ARGENTINE NAVY HAD DECIDED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE  
UPCOMING UNITAS EXERCISE. MASSERA ADDED THAT ARGENTINA  
DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN LAST YEARS OPERATIONS FOR  
POLITICAL REASONS. HE THEN NOTED, AS A SEPARATE TOPIC, THE  
APPROVAL OF SALE OF 15 T-34C TRAINER AIRCRAFT TO THE NAVY.

Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP

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With concurrence of: \_\_\_\_\_

IPS by AD obtained \_\_\_\_\_ not obt. \_\_\_\_\_  
Date 11-30-16

Declassified Case: 17X-87067 Date: 06-08-2013

4. IN CONCLUSION, ADMIRAL MASSERA REQUESTED THAT THIS INFORMATION BE CLOSELY HELD, ESPECIALLY FROM THE OTHER ARGENTINE MILITARY SERVICES.

5. EMBASSY COMMENT: THE JUNTA HELD A THREE HOUR MEETING LAST NIGHT (MARCH 30) TO DECIDE A NUMBER OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES BEFORE ITS AIR FORCE AND NAVY MEMBERS LEFT FOR THE US AND SAUDI ARABIA RESPECTIVELY. ADMIRAL MASSERAS WISH TO BE THE FIRST TO INFORM THE USG OF THE POSITIVE JUNTA DECISIONS ON TLATELOLCO AND TIMERMAN IS

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ANOTHER INDICATION OF HIS INTEREST IN IMPROVING HIS PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. HIS DECISION THAT THE ARGENTINE NAVY WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE 1978 UNITAS EXERCISES AND THAT HE PERSONALLY WOULD RELAY THIS INFORMATION TO HIS BRAZILIAN COUNTERPART APPEAR TO THE EMBASSY TO BE A DIRECT AND POSITIVE REPLY FROM MASSERA TO THE DEPARTMENTS DECISION TO PERMIT THE T-34C NAVY TRAINER AIRCRAFT SALE TO GO THROUGH. MOTIVATED AS HE IS BY HIS PERSONAL POLITICAL AMBITIONS, MASSERA WISHES TO GARNER MAXIMUM CREDIT FOR HIMSELF AND THE NAVY FOR THESE IMPORTANT POSITIVE STEPS. WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY HIS STATEMENTS AND ARE SEEKING ADDITIONAL CONFIRMATION.

6. FROM MASSERAS AND OTHERS COMMENTS, IT SEEMS THE GOA MAY BE SEEKING TO ANNOUNCE ITS RATIFICATION OF TLATELOLCO IN SUCH A WAY AS TO MINIMIZE THE APPEARANCE OF US PRESSURE.  
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